

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 HA-05
/131 W

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O 210210Z JUL 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2616
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICAN GROUP EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT HELMS
AMENDMENT

1. A DELEGATION REPRESENTING UN AFRICAN GROUP CALLED
ON AMB MCHENRY JULY 20 TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN ABOUT
HELMS AMENDMENT (PENDING IN US SENATE) WHICH CALLS FOR
A SIX-MONTH LIFTING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA.

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THE AFRICANS REQUESTED THE MEETING AFTER "URGENT"
JULY 19 MEETING OF AFRICAN GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT.
AFRICANS AT MCHENRY MEETING INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES
OF SUDAN, TANZANIA, KENYA, ANGOLA, NIGERIA, AND THE
OAU. AT AFRICAN REQUEST PRESENTATION WAS LATER OPEN TO
THE PRESS AND COVERED BY WIRE SERVICES AND A FEW OTHER
REPORTERS.

2. AMBASSADOR MAINA (KENYA) ACTED AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP. IN LOW-KEY AND MODERATE LANGUAGE, HE EXPRESSED "GREAT CONCERN" ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENACTING HELMS AMENDMENT, AND OUTLINED THE VIEWS OF THE AFRICAN GROUP ON THIS SUBJECT. THOSE VIEWS ARE DESCRIBED IN FULL IN THE STATEMENT (CONTAINED PARA FOUR BELOW) WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTED TO AMB MCHENRY.

3. MCHENRY THANKED THE GROUP FOR COMING AND ASSURED THEM HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THEIR VIEWS TO THE US GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES THE HELMS AMENDMENT BECAUSE IT WOULD TILT THE US POSITION TOWARD SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHEN IN FACT THE ADMINISTRATION POLICY IS TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO GAIN AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. MCHENRY EXPLAINED THE US SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES WHICH PERMITS CONGRESS TO WORK ITS OWN WILL, BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE HELMS AMENDMENT WOULD NOT PREVAIL.

4. TEXT OF OAU STATEMENT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES AT THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM IT THAT THE AFRICAN GROUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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HELD AN URGENT MEETING ON JULY 19, 1978 TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN RHODESIA, ON THE BASIS OF AN AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY SENATOR HELMS.

AT THE END OF THE MEETING THE GROUP DECIDED TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES AT THE UNITED NATIONS VIEWS WITH GREAT CONCERN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY SENATOR JESSE HELMS, WHICH, IF PASSED, WILL LIFT ALL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND CUT OFF AID TO THOSE STATES THAT PROVIDE BASES FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IT WOULD MEAN THE RESUMPTION OF ALL TRADE, INCLUDING THE SUPPLY OF ARMS, AND AMOUNT TO A DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE SO-CALLED INTERIM GOVERNMENT, THEREBY ENCOURAGING ITS INTRANSIGENCE.

THE AFRICAN GROUP CONDEMNS THE PROPOSED HELMS AMENDMENT WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF MINORITY RULE IN SALISBURY, AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTS THE PREMISES ON

WHICH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS BASED,
I.E. THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER
IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND THAT THE WAR HAS ENDED.
THE AFRICAN GROUP REITERATES ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT
FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN RHODESIA UNTIL
A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY IN ZIMBABWE
HAS TAKEN PLACE.

THE GROUP VIEWS THE PROPOSED ACTION BY THE
US SENATE AS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME
WHEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES ARE
SEARCHING FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN
PROBLEM BY PROPOSING AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE. BOTH THE

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ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
HAVE ACCEPTED THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AS A BASIS FOR
FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE ALSO ACCEPTED THE IDEA
OF AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE. IN FACT, IT IS SMITH

AND HIS COLLABORATORS WHO HAVE REJECTED THE ABOVE.

FURTHER, ANY LIFTING OF SANCTIONS BY
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WILL BE IN DIRECT VIOLATION
OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, WHICH
IMPOSED MANDATORY SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN RHODESIA
IN THE FIRST PLACE. IN FACT, SUCH ACTION WOULD
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SERIOUSLY HURT US CHANCES TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN
IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE RESOLUTION
OF THE CONFLICT."

THE AFRICAN GROUP WOULD APPRECIATE IF THE
ABOVE STATEMENT IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN THE US GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES AT THE UNITED
NATIONS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW
TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT. MCHENRY

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